United Nations A/71/804–S/2017/154

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 February 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 41
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 21 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 February 2017, addressed to you by Yasa Yeşilada, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Office of the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

17-02929 (E) 010317

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 21 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a letter dated 16 February 2017, addressed to you by Sibel Siber, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

The original of the said letter is being mailed to you separately.

(*Signed*) Yasa **Yeşilada**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

As might have already come to your attention, the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives took a decision on 10 February 2017 to commemorate the 1950 enosis plebiscite in Greek Cypriot schools.

Enosis, which literally means the unification of the island with Greece, not only ignored the existence and identity of the Turkish Cypriot people, one of the co-owners of the island, but was the underlying reason behind the Cyprus dispute. As you are well aware, the Greek Cypriot side's aim of enosis resulted eventually in the destruction of the 1960 partnership Republic of Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot partner, which carried out an onslaught on the Turkish Cypriot people and forcibly expelled them from the State organs, bringing about the Security Council decision to send a United Nations peacekeeping force to Cyprus in 1964.

Given these historical facts, such a decision, particularly at a time when the negotiation process has reached a critical and historical stage, is in contravention of the ongoing negotiation process and the Joint Declaration of 11 February 2014. In fact, at the heart of enosis lies the Hellenization of the island, the antithesis of a bizonal, bicommunal federation based on the political equality of the two sides and the equal status of the two constituent States.

It is even graver that, instead of expressing his dismay, the Greek Cypriot leader, Nicos Anastasiades, is attempting to downplay this decision, which aims to inject younger generations with the idea of enosis, the very cause of the Cyprus question.

This attitude once more justifies the Turkish Cypriot side's insistence on such issues as political equality, effective participation in the decision-making process, primary law and the continuation of the Treaties of Guarantee and of Alliance.

Coupled with the recent intransigent attitude of the Greek Cypriot leadership at the negotiation table, this decision has further escalated suspicions concerning the Greek Cypriot side's goodwill and sincerity towards finding a solution within the framework of United Nations parameters and has deepened the distrust of the Turkish Cypriot people towards the Greek Cypriot side. Naturally, the Turkish Cypriot people as a whole are deeply concerned about the efforts of the Greek Cypriot leadership to keep the idea of enosis and the Hellenization of Cyprus alive, which is perceived as a threat to their very existence. Within this context, I deem it necessary to emphasize that there is consensus across the whole political spectrum and among the Turkish Cypriot people regarding this decision and the attitude of the Greek Cypriot leadership in this respect.

I would like to seize this opportunity to bring to your kind attention a joint declaration by the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus condemning the decision of the Greek Cypriot parliament to commemorate the enosis plebiscite in Greek Cypriot schools (see attachment).

This decision of the Greek Cypriot parliament and the stance of Mr. Anastasiades have dealt a serious blow to the confidence between the two leaders and the two peoples on the island, which is extremely detrimental to your mission of good offices. I therefore hope and trust that you will take immediate action to ensure that the Greek Cypriot leadership steps back from this historical error which may lead to irreparable outcomes.

(*Signed*) Sibel **Siber**
Speaker

Attachment

Joint declaration by the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus condemning the decision of the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives to commemorate the enosis plebiscite in Greek Cypriot schools

13 February 2017

- It is well known by all which historical facts the Turkish Cypriot people recall with regard to "enosis", the movement which ignores the existence and identity of the Turkish Cypriot people, one of the co-owners of the island of Cyprus.
- Despite all past experiences, our people have always put forward their willingness to reach a solution which ensures that the painful events of the past will not be repeated. The Turkish Cypriot people voted in favour of the Annan plan in 2004 and subsequently kept alive their will to reach a settlement.
- The Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has supported all of the settlement negotiation processes to date in accordance with the will of our people and has taken decisions in support of a solution in line with United Nations parameters. Most recently, it has expressed full support for the document signed by the two leaders on 11 February 2014.
- Despite the Turkish Cypriot side's continuing will for a solution, the decision taken by the House of Representatives of the Greek Cypriot Administration to commemorate in schools the 1950 plebiscite for enosis constitutes an approach which is in complete contravention of the document of 11 February 2014 as well as the ongoing negotiation process.
- It should be well known that this decision has been perceived by the Turkish Cypriot side as serious disrespect for the main philosophy behind the negotiation process, has deepened the distrust of the Turkish Cypriot people towards the Greek Cypriots and has further escalated suspicions concerning the Greek Cypriot side's goodwill and sincerity towards finding a solution within the framework of United Nations parameters.
- We seriously condemn the fact that the Greek Cypriot side has brought "enosis" to the agenda at a time when the process to find a solution to the Cyprus problem is ongoing, and we request that the United Nations take immediate action to ensure that the Greek Cypriot side steps back from this historical error which may lead to irreparable outcomes.

Sibel Siber
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Tufan Erhürman
Leader of the Republican Turkish Party

Hüseyin Özgürgün
Leader of the National Unity Party

Serdar Denktaş
Leader of the Democrat Party

pp Hüseyin Angolemli
Leader of the Communal Democracy Party

Independent members of parliament